

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 COME-00 LAB-04 CIAE-00 /016 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-RJKOTT:DFP
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S/IL- DGOOD
AF/I- LSLEZAK
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
USDOC, LAB, CIA

-----210259Z 034236 /70

P R 202244Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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FROM AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, ECRE, ELAB, NI

SUBJECT: CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM

REF: LAGOS 4098

1. USDOC WASHINGTON REPORTS NO AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON
CONSORTIUM. (SEE PARA EIGHT BELOW)

2. MR. MERLIN TAYLOR, WHO IS TRAINING MANAGER OF CINCINNATI
CONSORTIUM AND ALSO ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTSMEN (ALSO LISTED AS
MEMBER OF CONSORTIUM), PAID CALL ON SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO
THE SECRETARY AND COORDINATOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS
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(S/IL) ON APRIL 15, 1977. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WAS OFFICER
FROM AF/W AND AF LABOR ADVISOR.

3. TAYLOR DISCUSSED THE CONSORTIUM'S INVOLVEMENT WITH
NIGERIA EXPLAINING ITS INTEREST IN CONSTRUCTING A 150-BED
HOSPITAL WITH CLINICAL AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES LOCATED
IN KADUNA. ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT IS DOLS 30 MILLION.

TAYLOR SAID FMG PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TRADESMEN WHO WOULD CONSTRUCT HOSPITAL AND SUBSEQUENT IN-COUNTRY PROJECTS. TAYLOR SAID CONSORTIUM REPRESENTATIVE MET IN DECEMBER 1976 WITH FEDERAL MIN PUBLIC

WORKS OFFICIALS IN LONDON WHO DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN CONSORTIUM PROPOSAL. CONSORTIUM REPRESENTATIVE SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED FMG COMMISSIONER FOR LABOR (WHILE IN LAGOS ABOUT SIX WEEKS AGO) WHO ALLEGEDLY REPLIED THAT HE EAGER RECEIVE VISIT SOONEST.

4. TAYLOR EXPLAINED JOB TRAINING ELEMENT OF CONSORTIUM'S PROPOSAL WOULD BE CARRIED OUT PARTLY IN US AND PARTLY IN NIGERIA BY BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTSMEN UNION. TRAINING BY UNIONS IS FREQUENT PROCEDURE IN US PARTICULARLY IN BUILDING TRADES.

5. S/IL AND AF OFFICERS BRIEFED TAYLOR ON GENERAL POLITICAL/ECONOMIC/LABOR TRENDS IN NIGERIA STRESSING NEED FOR ANY FOREIGN INTEREST TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION IN LABOR FIELD. TAYLOR EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT FMG MIGHT MISINTERPRET INVOLVEMENT OF US UNIONS IN NIGERIA AS ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE AND/OR ORGANIZE NIGERIAN WORKERS. TAYLOR STRESSED THAT THIS NOT RPT NOT THE CONSORTIUM'S/UNION'S INTENT.

6. S/IL PROMISED TO STUDY MATERIALS TAYLOR LEFT DESCRIBING NIGERIAN PROPOSAL AND COMPOSITION OF CONSORTIUM AND TO ADVISE TAYLOR AS TO PROCEEDING FURTHER. COPY OF CONSORTIUM'S MAILGRAM TO EMBASSY RECEIVED HERE SUBSEQUENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO APRIL 15 TAYLOR- S/IL MEETING.

7. DEPARTMENT HAS NO REASON TO OBJECT TO EMBASSY'S MAKING APPOINTMENT FOR MAXFIELD WITH COMMISSIONER OF LABOR BASED UPON WHAT WE NOW KNOW OF CONSORTIUM'S PLANS. SUGGEST, HOWEVER, IF YOU INTEND SENDING POSITIVE REPLY TO MAXFIELD, THAT YOU URGE HIM FIRST APPEAR AT EMBASSY FOR BRIEFING. WE INTEND SO INFORM TAYLOR AT WASHINGTON, D.C., ADDRESS. WE UNDERSTAND MAXFIELD MAY INVITE LABOR MIN. TO VISIT US TO STUDY PROPOSAL FURTHER.

8. QUICK CHECK BY USDOC CINCINNATI DISTRICT OFFICE ON CONSORTIUM REVEALS ONLY THAT GROUP WAS FORMED ABOUT 7 MONTHS AGO FOR PURPOSE OF DOING INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS. ONE MEMBER GROUP CLAIMS CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS BANK AND TRUST HAS AGREED PROVIDE CONSORTIUM WITH DOLS 2 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT BUT BANK NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS IMMEDIATELY. SAME MEMBER OF GROUP SAYS AVERAGE EXPERIENCE OF FIRMS COMPRISING CONSORTIUM TOTALS 20 YEARS. CIN-

CINNATI CONSORTIUM UNKNOWN TO CINCINNATI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. MEMBERS OF CONSORTIUM FOLLOWS:

A) ARCHITECTS:

CARL C. BANKEMPER AND ASSOCIATES, COVINGTON, KENTUCKY;

F.W. PRESSLER AND ASSOCIATES, CINCINNATI, OHIO;

SULLIVAN, BODE, RUNCK AND ASSOCIATES, INC., CINCINNATI, OHIO;

WINKLER, RANCK, BEEGHLY AND MAXFIELD, HAMILTON, OHIO.

B) ENGINEERS:

MAXFIELD, EDWARDS AND BACKER, COVINGTON, KENTUCKY;

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G.J. THELEN, COVINGTON, KENTUCKY;

LOOMIS ENGINEERING COMPANY, COVINGTON, KENTUCKY;

JOHN R. SANSALONE AND COMPANY, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

C) CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS:

BUILDING CRAFTS, INC., NEWPORT, KENTUCKY;

TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC., CINCINNATI, OHIO

D) TRAINING MANAGERS:

BECKER ELECTRIC COMPANY, CINCINNATI, OHIO;

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTSMEN,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

9. MATERIALS ON CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM BEING AIR POUCHED
TO EMBASSY. RESULTS OF FURTHER BACKGROUND CHECKS WILL
BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY UPON RECEIPT BY DEPARTMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, PERSONNEL TRAINING, BUSINESS REPUTATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE089214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RJKOTT:DFF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0168
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770436/aaaabfiz.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f06b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAGOS 4098
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2745099
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM
TAGS: BBAK, ECRE, ELAB, NI, CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f06b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009